TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE Transcriber's Office FLOOR DEBATE

March 25, 2003 LB 608

is \$120 million, and that doesn't include the cities and other places that may have a revenue impact also. And the previous year it was \$135 million. Now, these are averages that are extrapolated from this information, but we as legislators have a legitimate reason to be setting standards for this kind of money that we are spending on our tax incentives. I passed to you a listing of counties and their median household income, their poverty level, and I also . at the bottom it tells you what \$8.25 per hour for rural is, which is about \$17,160 per We're not...we're actually, with this amendment, going to harm the averages in these counties, and the counties that are below the poverty line, the ten lowest counties in the state that also happen to have high rates of poverty also, their median income ranges from 24.9 to 27 thousand dollars. This is a very, very minimal amount that we're asking our taxpayers, through 120 to 130 million dollars, and that's just state only. That is not what Omaha or Alliance or Norfolk or any other place may have in lost sales tax revenue that they may be getting in offset at some point in other ways that these jobs benefit their counties. If we really want to make good public policy, then we should have standards in it. We should have standards. we're not asking very much. Just take a look at the sheet: highest counties income, lowest county incomes, families below the poverty line, and the ten highest counties. We're not doing anything to help that with this amendment, but we are putting a floor in there that says if we're going to invest this kind of money in you, then you should be investing money in people so that they can live. Now the issue has come up on the discussion that there may be something on health insurance. that's needs work in this bill. Well, we have lots of that have this type of a component. Arizona, California, Colorado, Delaware, Georgia, Iowa, Louisiana, Maine, Oklahoma, South Carolina, and Texas, in their tax incentive programs, all have provisions for some type of healthcare coverage. get there. If there are issues that you have they can be worked out between now and General File. But I'm going to support this amendment because I have confidence in Senator Landis. It's not what I want, but I'm willing to vote for it to see what happens. But if it doesn't pass, I think it's very important that we pass the underlying amendment. And I hope we come back, if this amendment passes, and revisit that health insurance issue....